GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2670
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Development of New Variety of Tomato
Kaushik Shri Ramesh Chander

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a new variety of tomato last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government to promote it along with the suitable season for producing the new variety of tomato;

(c) the time by which the newly developed variety of tomato is likely to be made available to the farmers;

(d) whether the Government is running any special programme for the farmers for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) During the year 2014-15, two hybrids of tomato, Arka Rakshak and Arka Samrat from ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru have been released.
Arka Rakshak and Arka Samrat: These hybrids are unique and are resistant to three diseases viz. (a) Tomato leaf curl virus (ToLCV), (b) Bacterial wilt and (c) Early blight. Among all the hybrids in the country, these are the only hybrids which are resistant to early blight.

Fruits of Arka Rakshak are oblong shaped while it is round in case of Arka Samrat. Fruits of these hybrids are firm with an extended shelf life of 15-20 days. The average yield potential is 80-85 t/ha under open field conditions in 140-145 days. These hybrids are suitable to be grown in the South Indian climatic conditions and appropriate season for their cultivation is Kharif and Rabi.

ICAR-IIHR has produced and distributed 200 kg of F1 seeds covering an area of 10000 acres. ICAR-IIHR has conducted several on-farm demonstrations in different parts of the country involving Krishi Vigyan Kendras for popularization of these hybrids.

(c) Already, the F1 seeds are made available to the farmers by ICAR-IIHR. It has spread to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) Under the seed village concept, ICAR-IIHR has produced F1 seeds in farmers' fields under the supervision of breeders and these seeds are procured by the Institute and distributed to interested farmers. Further, the parental lines of these hybrids are licensed to NHRDF and private seed companies on non-exclusive basis. Steps are taken to license to NSC also.

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